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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

TODD ROKITA
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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND THE WORKFORCE

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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July 5, 2018

Chairman Joseph Simons
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580

Assistant Attorney General Makan Delrahim
Department of Justice Antitrust Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Chairman Simons and Assistant Attorney General Delrahim,

I write to request an examination of potential anticompetitive conduct by Alphabet Inc., the parent company of Google and several subsidiaries.

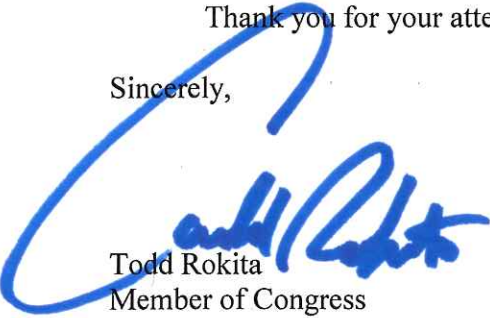
Since Google's practices were last reviewed, its market power has expanded and warrants reevaluation. When the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) staff investigated Google in 2012, it concluded that Google controlled 71 percent of the internet search market. Google controls over 85 percent of that market today. Studies suggest changes Google instituted to its search pages several years ago have harmed consumers, as the costs of search have increased while consumers are seeing less relevant results. Today, more than half of all smartphones in the U.S. are Google's Android devices. Most other devices include many of Google's applications. It is clear that Google has vast insight and influence into American consumers' internet activities.

Google's market power extends well beyond search and mobile. The vast majority of ad-funded websites use Google technologies to sell their advertising space. For example, Google is one of two companies that together claim 73 percent of all online advertising revenue.

This market dominance creates an often-insurmountable barrier to entry for new innovators who could better serve consumers. Americans must hand their personal data to one company. Using this data, Google creates invasive consumer profiles to determine the types of products, opportunities, and services marketed to these consumers. These market conditions are in part what prompted European regulators to take action against Google. It is time for your agencies to reopen reviews of Google to ensure that its business practices comply with the law.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Todd Rokita
Member of Congress

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